

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claims 1 - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A portable flange for temporarily connecting an exhaust fan for exhausting gases and circulating fresh air to a manway to a tank while workers are temporarily working in said tank which enables the extension of worker's lines hoses and electrical wires from the exterior of said manway through said manway having said exhaust fan attached thereto, said flange comprising:

a. a top plate for temporarily connecting said flange to said exhaust fan, said top plate having a generally circular opening in the center thereof,

b. a bottom plate for temporarily connecting said flange to said manway, said bottom plate having a generally circular opening in the center thereof, and

c. a hollow sleeve having a cylindrical wall terminating in two generally circular ends, one of said two ends being connected to said bottom plate at the periphery of said opening in said bottom plate, and the other of said two ends being connected to said top plate at the periphery of said opening in said top plate, said sleeve having at least one opening in said wall for temporary receipt of said lines hoses and electrical wires, wherein said top plate is parallel to said bottom plate, and said wall of said sleeve is perpendicular to said bottom plate and said top plate.

18. (Original) The flange of claim 17 wherein said top plate has a plurality of openings therein for receipt of a fastener.

19. (Original) The flange of claim 18 wherein said bottom plate has a plurality of openings therein for receipt of a fastener.

20. (Original) The flange of claim 19 wherein said fastener is a bolt.